

Econ 050 -International Economics FALL 2019

Department of Economics -University of Pennsylvania-

Teaching team information

Instructor: Luca Bossi, Ph.D.
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Please make sure to include always your full name in your email messages. I check my email regularly during working hours. However, if your email implies a very long answer, please come and see me during office hours. I am typically also available for questions in the classroom right before/after the lectures. I do not respond to emails on Sunday, unless it is the Sunday prior to an exam.

Office hours: Monday 4-5pm and Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm, or by appointment.

TA: Isaac Rabbani
Office: 525 PCPE Building.
E-mail: irabbani@sas.upenn.edu
Office hours: Wednesday and Thursday 4-5pm

Course information

Meeting time/place: Monday and Wednesday 2-3:30pm in PCPE 200.

Textbook: Krugman P., M. Obstfeld and M. Melitz (KOM): "**International Economics**", *Pearson*, 11th edition. You can opt to have an electronic copy of the book with your Mylab subscription. This is a cheaper option than buying the hardcopy of the textbook and the access to Mylab separately.

Prerequisites: **The official prerequisite for this course is Econ 001 and 002 or Econ 10.** There are no exceptions to this Departmental requirements. I will ask you to also be able to take the partial derivative of simple functions during the course.

Course Websites

- Login in **Canvas** system.
- Signup to **Mylab** (from within Canvas), a companion website to complete the online assignments and access the online copy of the textbook. **You MUST sign up using your Penn student ID. Failure to do so, will lead to a loss of 1 point from your overall score.** More details and "how to signup" are available in a separate document posted on Canvas.
- Signup with **Piazza** (from within Canvas) for class discussions and questions that are relevant for every student. <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/computing/piazza-account>

Optional: you can follow me on Twitter [@Econ2Penn](https://twitter.com/Econ2Penn) if you would like. You can also network with me on LinkedIn.

You are required to check the course websites (Canvas/Mylab/Piazza) regularly. Most of the class material including lecture notes, problem sets, exercises, readings, etc. will be posted

online. All the major announcements can also be found on Canvas. This means that you need to check the course website at least a couple of times during each week. I will assume that each student is aware of all the material posted on the Canvas.

Course overview and objectives

This course is an introduction to the theory of international trade and international macroeconomics. The theoretical background is used as a basis for discussion of policy issues. Topics include, but are not limited to: patterns of international trade and production; gains from trade; tariffs and other impediments to trade; foreign exchange markets, balance of payments, capital flows, financial crises, coordination of monetary and fiscal policy in a global economy.

The course structure is based on lectures format. Exams and assignments will cover all material covered in the lectures as well as the relevant textbook chapters.

Note: Economics 50 is a one-semester course in International Economics intended for non Econ majors. It is mostly intended for students interested in an Econ Policy minor. Students wishing to study the subject in greater depth should take instead the two-semester sequence Economics 251-252.

Requirements and grading criteria

You can use the following grading scale to convert your test/assignment scores into letter grades. This grading scale will be used as a lower bound:

A: > 93	B: 83.5 - 86.99	C: 73.5-76.99	D: 60-66.99
A-: 90-92.99	B-: 80 - 83.49	C-: 70-73.49	
B+: 87-89.99	C+: 77-79.99	D+: 67-69.99	F: < 60

If necessary, I will curve overall course scores.

Your overall letter grade will be based on three midterm exams, and the assignments. In particular, these are the weights:

- The Mylab assignments will count for 21%.
- (At least three) extended assignments will count for 3%.
- If you take all 3 exams, your lowest exam score will count for 20%, your highest score for 30% and the intermediate score for 25%.
- \pm 1% for signing the agreement form at the end of this syllabus and uploading it in Canvas by drop period ends deadline. More on this in class.

This grading method favors the responsible students and it will help mitigate the effects of a one-time poor performance in one of the exams.

Exams

In this course there are no re-take exams, nor makeup exams. Only regularly scheduled exams. When you take an exam the grade in that exam will count toward your letter grade for this course according to the grading methods outlined above.

There will be three in-class midterm exams. There will be no makeup midterms: if you cannot take one midterm and you are missing it for whatever official Penn approved reason (which you need to formally communicate to me), the weight given to the remaining two exams will be 25% and 50%.

All exams are closed books and notes. Cheat sheets are not permitted on exams. Graphing calculators are not allowed.

Dates (exams are held at time and location of the regularly scheduled classes)

Exam 1	Wednesday October 02
Focus:	Ch.: 1, 2, 3, 5 of the textbook
Exam 2	Monday November 4
Focus:	Ch.: 6, 8, 9, 13, and 14
Exam 3	Monday December 09
Focus:	Ch.: 15, 16, 17, and 18 (possibly 19 and 20 as well).

Students are responsible for making sure, at the beginning of the term, that they can attend the regular exams. Registering for this course means that you certify that you will be present for the exams (unless one of the explicitly stated exceptions in the Department of Economics Course Policies arises).

Assignments

Homework assignments are designed as learning processes. In particular, the assignments in this course are mostly related to textbook reading and comprehension. This is by design. There will be a number of assignments, and it is required that you complete them. They count for 20% of your letter grade. Assignments will be posted on the Mylab website (mostly) or on Canvas web site. You will be notified about their availability and about their due dates within Canvas. Once you submit your answer, you might consider printing the answers from the Mylab web site for your own perusal. If you have any issues with how your problem set was graded, you should email me.

No late assignments will be accepted. You will receive a zero if you do not submit an assignment at the deadline. Mylab system will have strict deadlines embedded, and if you miss it there isn't anything that can be done. Please do plan ahead. "My laptop died", "my alarm clock didn't work" are not Penn-compatible excuses. Technical problems with your computer or your internet connection are not acceptable excuses either. You have several days to submit the homework, do not leave submission to the last hour of the last day that it is due.

I will drop the lowest assignment score. So if you miss an assignment for whatever reason that counts as your lowest score and your letter grade will not be impacted. If you miss more than one assignment that will likely impact your letter grade.

Assignments in Mylab are graded at Deadline. In some assignments student will be granted just one attempt at each question, in some others multiple attempts.

Feel free to study with other students and to discuss the assignments with your classmates and in fact you are encouraged to do so. However, the work you turn in should be your own. This is because working out problems is an essential component to learning economics. Directly copying someone else's problem set will be considered cheating.

There will be 5 or 6 extended assignments throughout the semester. You need to submit at least 3 of those on Canvas. Those will be looked upon by the TA/Grader most likely toward the end of the semester. You will not be graded in extreme details, but you will receive a feedback of check plus, check, check minus, on those assignments. You will get a zero if you do not hand in the extended assignments, or if your answers on that assignment do not meet a minimum level of effort or if it is impossible to read your work.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with the code of academic integrity at the University of Pennsylvania. You can find it here: <https://next.catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>

In particular, students are expected and required to:

1. Do not misrepresent work that you did not complete as your own.
2. Do not cheat in examinations, as doing so will result in sanctions.
3. **No graphing calculators are allowed during exams, only scientific calculators.**

If you are unsure as to whether you have a graphing calculator, please consult your Recitation Instructor prior to sitting for an exam. The act of bringing a graphing calculator into an exam, regardless if you use it or not, is considered cheating! No books, or notes are permitted during the exams too. Nothing that connects to the Internet is allowed either.

If the teaching team catches you cheating during any of the course activities, I will report you to The Office of Student Conduct (OSC) and follow standard university procedures. Any student who is found responsible for violating the Code of Academic Integrity by the OSC will receive an automatic F in the course. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Additional important information

- **Important dates:** Mylab grace period expires 14 days from the first day of classes; Fall Break is October 4-7; October 8, drop period ends; November 9, last day to withdraw from a course. Last day of classes is December 10.

- **Diversity:** I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, country of origin, etc.). To help accomplish this: If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. Remember that you can also submit anonymous feedback (which will lead to me making a general announcement to the class, if necessary to address your concerns). If you prefer to speak with someone outside of the course, then here is a link with some extra resources for you: <https://diversity.upenn.edu/>

- **Experiencing difficulties:** we all have been there where we truly needed a helping hand. Beside coming to talk to me about it, here are two great resources at Penn.

If you are experiencing academic difficulties: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/casenet>

If you are experiencing mental health difficulties: <https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>

- **Attendance and Course Absence Report:** Students must attend classes/recitations regularly and come to class prepared. Many absences from class and/or recitations will affect your final grade. According to College rules (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/course-absence-report>), **any absences should be reported through the Course Absence**

Report system. There are no “excused absences” – if you miss class/recitations, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material covered. You can submit a Course Absence Report by logging on to Penn InTouch and choosing the “Course Absence Report” option from the menu on the left.

- **Drawback of late enrollment:** If you sign up for the class late, and you miss any graded assignment(s) as a result, those will count as zero. As mentioned earlier, I will disregard one such assignments from your letter grade score. However, if you miss more than one assignment, this will likely impact your letter grade. The missed recitations due to late enrollment will count as part of the 3 that you can miss before your letter grade is affected.

- **Disabilities:** University of Pennsylvania, provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS). You must also send an e-mail to me about this so that the necessary arrangements for assistance are made. If you have not yet contacted SDS, and would like to request accommodations or have questions, you can make an appointment by calling SDS 215-573-9235. The office is located in the Weingarten Learning Resources Center at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. All services are confidential.

Please contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at the Weingarten Learning Resource Center <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/> at least **7 days prior the exam**, and make sure all the necessary administrative steps are taken for your exam accommodation.

- **Tutoring:** If you need tutoring for this class, please check with the Tutoring Center. www.vpul.upenn.edu/tutoring/index.php.

- **Contacts:**

- Logistical issues regarding joining a recitation section or changing sections: Please contact the undergraduate coordinator in the economics department, Emily Romanello, eroma@upenn.edu. She can be found in PCPE room 150. She is also knowledgeable about requirements for majors etcetera.

- Technical issues regarding Canvas go to: <http://www.library.upenn.edu/courseware>.

- Technical issues regarding the Mylab site:

<https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>

Concerns about homework, economics in general, or the material covered in class etc.:

contact me. I am here to facilitate your academic success at Penn. If you contact me as soon as a problem emerges, I will be able to help you better. If you contact me very late in the semester or after the semester is over, my help could be limited.

Comments and suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions for me, please do not hesitate to stop by during my office hours or to drop me an email.

Tentative Course outline and relative assigned readings/material will be posted directly on Canvas